Pollution of the river Yamuna

240. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of pollution in the River Yamuna during its flow near the major cities;

(b) whether any scheme has been put up in operation to undo the damage done by pollution and to ensure clean water and bathing ghats;

(c) if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(d) what will be the agency or agencies for implementation and by what time would the implementation work be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The quality of the river water in Yamuna along the major cities is of partly D and partly E class. D class makes it fit for propagation of wildlife and fishery and E class for irrigation, industrial cooling and controlled waste water disposal.

(b) and (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of river Yamuna has been launched to improve the river water quality. Under this scheme, pollution abatement works are to be taken up in six towns of Haryana and eight towns of Uttar Pradesh besides Delhi. The works would include (i) interception and diversion of municipal waste water from these towns (ii) treatment of such intercepted waste water (iii) setting up of facilities like low cost sanitation, improve crematoria, river front development, etc. and (iv) plantation along the river bank.

(d) The Action Plan will be implemented by the nodal executing agencies of the respective State Governments which are: (i) Public Health Engineering Department in Haryana (ii) Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking in Delhi (iii) U.P. Jal Nigam in Uttar Pradesh The Action Plan is scheduled to be completed by March, 1999.

Environment damage caused by leakage from the Bombay High Pipeline

241. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damage caused by the recent leakage from the Bombay High Pipeline;

(b) whether a disaster-management plan was proposed for the project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action taken by Government *from the environment point of view;*

(e) what action Government propose to take against ONGC;

(f) what preventive measures have been taken by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the investigations carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography, observed impacts on the environment were reduction in photosynthetic production, tinting of fishes, depletion of dissolved oxygen content in the seawater in some area, deposition of oil/tar balls or some of the beaches etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Directions were issued to ONGC to take immediate measures to remove oil and clear oil patches and not to discharge poisonous, noxious or polluting matter into the sea water. ONGC was also advised to furnished status report on implementation of the conditions stipulated while granting environmental clearance to the off-shore installations.

(f) According to ONGC, preventive measures such as safety audits, early detection of corrosion of equipments and pipelies etc., are being augmented.